

General Overview

The COVID-19 pandemic continues to advance in Mozambique, with 4,290 cases recorded in the past 30 days. With 478.6 cases per million inhabitants, Mozambique continues to have a relatively better-controlled epidemic than the rest of Southern Africa countries, just behind Angola. Nevertheless, with testing capacity still relatively low, it is very likely the actual figures are much greater.

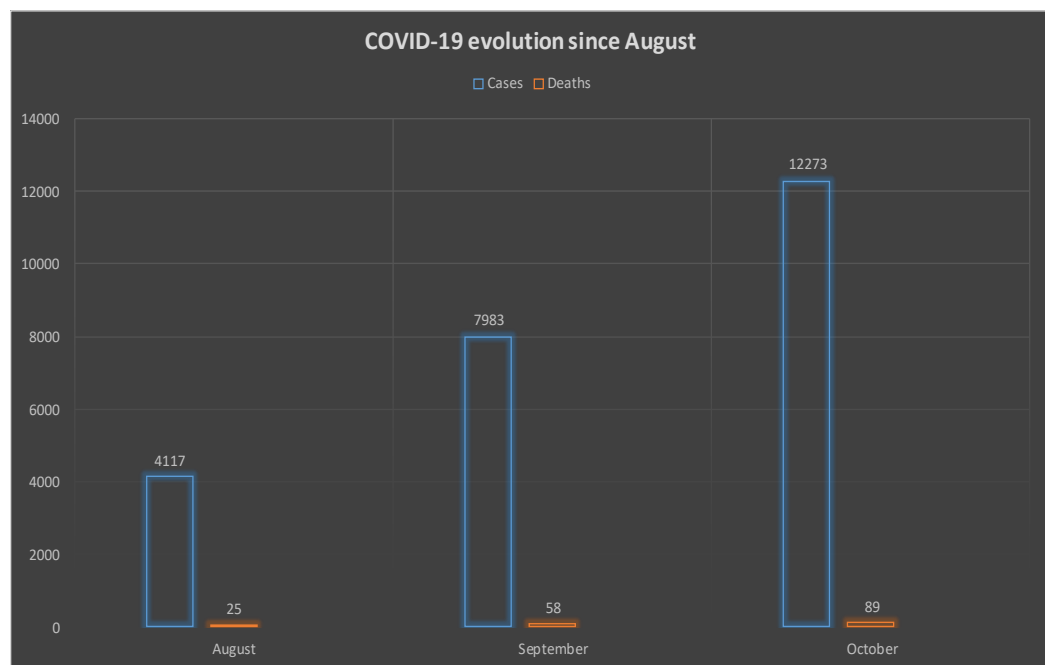
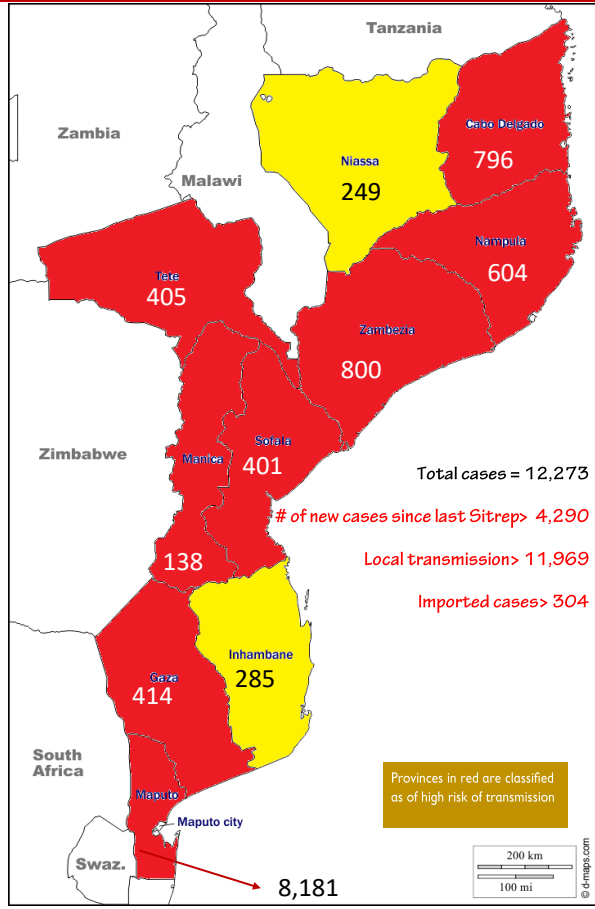
One of the highlights throughout the month has been the reopening of schools for grades 12 and 10, which took place on October 1, and October 19. Grade 11 students are not returning to school, following an administrative decision by the Government that classes without examinations will not return this year, and students will transition to the following grade automatically. The emergence of the first cases of infected medical doctors, including the Minister of Health himself, who announced that he tested positive for COVID-19 on October, 13 has also marked the COVID-19 debates. Another doctor who became infected lost his life on October 21. However, on the 26th, the Minister announced that he had fully recovered from the virus. A primary concern is also the increasing prevalence of the number of children contracting the virus. Of the total of the current 1,261 cumulative cases of COVID-19 in Mozambique, 2004 are under 20 years of age, and 1,415 are under 15. A month ago, the number of infected children under 15 was 891, increasing by 521 cases. On the 23rd, the Government announced the death of a baby by COVID-19. He was less than a month old, who died after his clinical condition worsened during his stay in a Maputo hospital.

The country remains in the State of Public Calamity as a way of delaying the rapid expansion of the virus, but the authorities are concerned with the almost general disregard for the measures enacted, such as avoiding crowds and making constant and correct use of the masks.

The pandemic in Mozambique continues to prevail among people aged between 25 and 44, but prevention efforts, by the Government, Save the Children and other civil society organizations, are directed at responsible actions by all people of all ages to protect, especially the most vulnerable groups. The average lethality in Mozambique is 0.7%, one of the lowest in the world. According to the Ministry of Health of Mozambique, it triples among individuals over 50 and is eight times higher in individuals over 60.

The Government of Mozambique has continued their sero-epidemiological surveys to help to identify the social and professional groups most exposed to the disease. So far, this type of survey has been carried out in six cities. Matola, in metropolitan Maputo, became the seventh to host this exercise between late September and early October. The results revealed that at least 1 in every 27 people in that district had been exposed to the virus and a higher prevalence among traders.

Save the Children's teams in the field are continuing to raise awareness, promote good WASH practices, and provide Personal Protective Equipment (PPEs) to better prevent and cope with the impacts of the pandemic and support government efforts to reinforce the health system. At the national level, we have teamed up with other civil society organizations, under the Coalition for the Elimination of Child Marriages, also known as Coligação para a Eliminação dos Casamentos Prematuros (CECAP) – a network of 56 CSOs working to eradicate child marriage in Mozambique - to bring attention to children and COVID-19.



[The Report on the human rights situation of girls in Mozambique: The nexus between girls' economic, social and cultural situation, early or forced marriages, early pregnancy, and COVID-19](#) was submitted a few days ago to the United Nations as part of the Universal Periodic Review, clearly highlights this concern by noting that it is necessary to entrust district prosecutors to disseminate the Law against child marriages. It also stresses the need for good coordination and information sharing between promoters and the community and available referral mechanisms. The report also recommends the need to empower girls' clubs and women's organizations to combat child marriages and unwanted pregnancies during COVID-19 and ensure that COVID-19's response and recovery plans and strategies do not generate or perpetuate harmful norms and gender inequalities.

## RESPONSE UPDATES

### Government

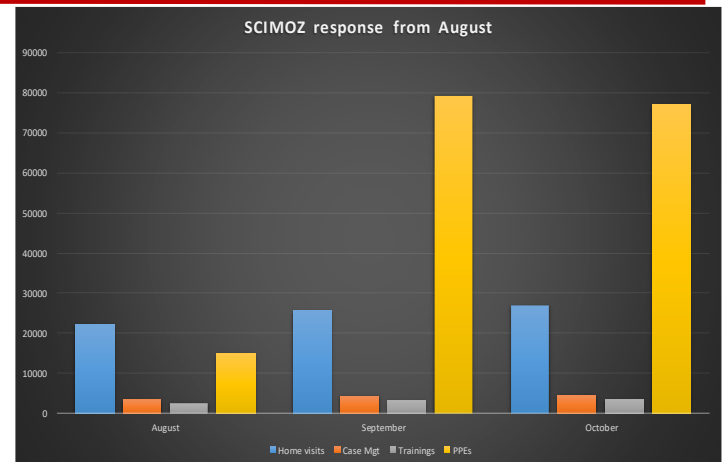
The Government has been showing concern about the increasing occupancy rate of beds for intensive care in the city of Maputo and, through the voice of the President of the Republic, announced that the National Health System would collapse if the current infection rate is maintained in the Capital, has called for stricter compliance with the measures issued under the declaration of the State of Public Calamity. In general, here is what we can share from the progress made in the last month:

- Schools are gradually reopening. Students from grades 12 and 10 are back in some schools, but many remain at home as proper conditions for safe returning are being arranged. Grade 7 students are expected to return to school as from November, 2.
- A researcher from the National Institute of Health was awarded \$ 50,000 that will be used to conduct research using native plants to control and treat COVID-19. The study will also explore existing bacteria in the human body and its potential to fight the virus.
- The Police of the Republic of Mozambique approved a regulation on the control of the production, commercialisation, and consumption of alcoholic beverages to operationalize the decree declaring the State of Public Calamity. Young people are in the age group most infected with COVID-19, and this is associated with alcohol consumption in groups.

### Our response

#### HEALTH & NUTRITION

- As part of its support to the Provincial Health Directorate of Gaza, southern Mozambique, SCI through FSL-MNCH (funded by Save the Children Italy), resumed its support of the mobile health brigade activities that had been halted since April, following the declaration of the State of Emergency. The activities were resumed observing the recommended preventive measures. In parallel, nutritional advice and support is being provided through Community Health Activists. 5,000 children and 4,300 adults will benefit from these activities. With the restrictions after the declaration of the state of emergency, these activities were interrupted for five months, which has affected – particularly those living in remote communities – from accessing vital health services. With this resumption, there is a high demand for health services, as emphasized in the consultations we have been having with all age groups. Due to poor access to primary health care, activities to tackle the prevailing high rates of malnutrition, such as a good dietary and feeding practices including for pregnant



and lactating mothers and children, particularly in the northern districts of Gaza Province were included. These includes cooking demonstrations covering all key food groups using locally available materials.

- Still, in Gaza, Save the Children delivered more Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to the Provincial Health Directorate. The support consisted of 7,870 items, including resistant gloves, examination gloves, surgical gloves, caps for nurses, protective gowns, face masks, and boots. This gesture was made possible thanks to the support of the Child Sponsorship program, which in total provided more than \$91,000 of PPE equipment.
- The mobile health brigades were also resumed by the Emergency Response project (DEC2 funds) in 16 communities in Matarara, Marcação, Muchamba, Unidade, and Maziquera, and Massequesse, in Manica province. The brigades are composed of health technicians and nutrition counselors. They also include nutrition activists to help prevent malnutrition with a focus on COVID-19. In these communities, 2,106 people (971 men and 1,135 women aged 0 to 60 years) were reached last month.



A mobile health brigade supported by Save the Children in Guijá, Gaza.

# RESPONSE UPDATES

## Our response

- The Kudziua project (AICS Italy) has intensified the work of mobile brigades in the communities to reach children who live far from health facilities and whose parents have not accessed the health services for fear of contracting COVID-19. The brigades also monitor the prevalence of commonly neglected diseases, malnutrition and also adherence to vaccination schedules. The activities of mobile brigades reached 1,715 children, of which 698 are girls.
- In Manica, the NORAD project trained eight matrons in the manufacture of reusable hygiene pads and homemade masks to improve girls' sexual health and prevent COVID-19 in eight communities in the Tambara district. These matrons are then responsible for producing pads for about 3,000 families.
- In Búzi, Sofala province, Save the Children donated 350 pairs of permeable boots, 350 goggles, 350 reusable plastic aprons, 350 blue gowns for service agents, 50 sheets for pediatrics, and 50 plastic pins for the healthcare sector. These PPEs were acquired with DEC funds.
- With the return to classes of 7th-grade students scheduled for November, the Ungumi project (SC Italy) is training 60 activist teachers in Derre, Morrumbala, and Milange in sexual and reproductive health (SSR) and gender equality. The training aims to ensure gender-sensitive and friendly SSR counseling for teenagers through activist teachers.

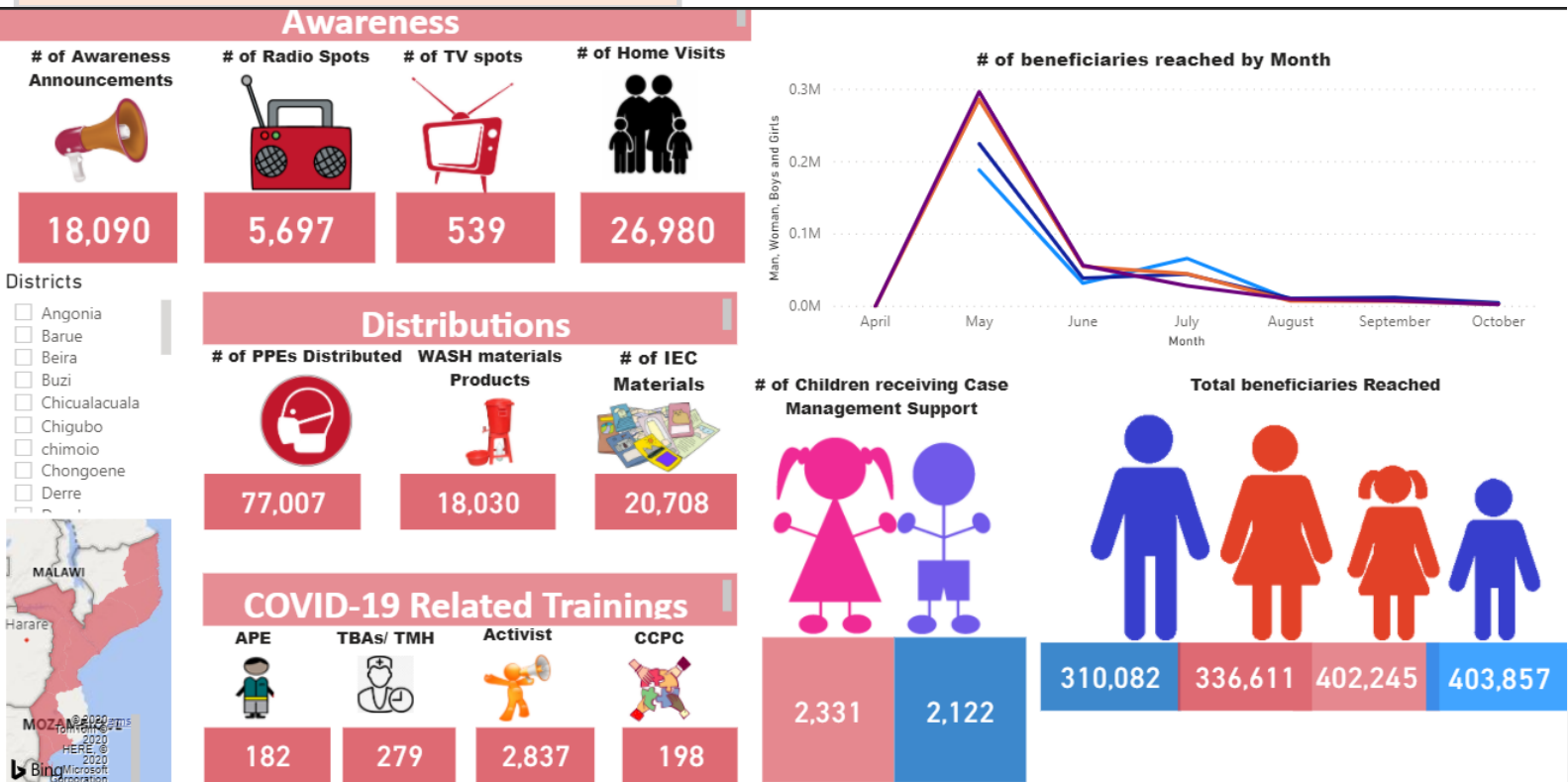
## EDUCATION

- In Manica, thanks to the NORAD project, 111 backpacks were distributed to *Ambulante* teachers and reading promoters as part of the family-based learning approach, implemented under COVID-19 SCIMOZ innovation and adaptation, benefiting close to 12,000 children in the districts of Tambara and Macossa.
- In the province of Zambézia, 40 sessions were held to train 445 parents and guardians in activities that stimulate cognitive development for children under the age of five without access to pre-school education due to the pandemic. These activities are taking place in Morrumbala and Milange with the support of the Kudziua project (AICS Italy). This is parallel to door-to-door pre-school education sessions, reaching 840 children in these two districts.
- In Tete, the STAR-G project (DFID - now Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office funded) trained 79 secondary school teachers in the districts of Angónia and Macanga, with the aim of refreshing them on the literacy and numeracy modules and as an integral part of the gradual resumption of classes.

## CHILD PROTECTION

- In Machaze district, Manica, Role-Model Parents have been inducted as part of a campaign to eliminate corporal and psychological punishment, and child marriage in the context of COVID-19.

SCIMOZ reach figures dashboard as of October, 27, 2020



## RESPONSE UPDATES

### Our response

Ten community leaders and two parents were part of this initial induction in 12 communities where there are role-model schools supported by the NORAD Project.

- The Ungumi project (SC Italy) continues to refresh the Community Committees for the Protection of Children to respond to a possible increase in child rights violations during the pandemic periods. In the last 30 days, 33 groups made up of 825 people (330 children) have received training. It is expected that their work will benefit more than 20,000 people. These committees act as first-line guardians of children's rights, including identifying possible risk situations and violation of rights, reporting to authorities, and ensuring follow-up and perpetrators are held to account.

### AWARENESS & CAMPAIGNS

- The Kudziua project (AICS) carried out the training on Safeguarding the Child for the Health Committees, the Protection Committees, and ECCD, including local leaders and partners from the District Services of Health, Women and Social Action, and Education. One hundred and seventeen adults and 22 children benefited from this training, and through the work of these committees, thousands more will be impacted.
- The Emergency Response project, supported by OFDA, also carried out rapid risk communications assessments in Chitunga and Mavonde, in Manica, to understand levels of understanding and also rumours and misconception levels on COVID-19 prevention measures. Fifty (50) community actors attended, including leaders, traditional medicine practitioners, activists, and child protection committees. Of the 50, 23 were women, and 27 were men. Social and behavior change campaigns are being adapted based on

these findings so we can ensure we deliver tailored and context-appropriate messages.

- In Sofala, Save the Children conducted awareness sessions on preventive measures against COVID-19 in Buzi, Dondo, and Nhamatanda, reaching 2,870 people. The sessions included demonstrations on correct handwashing procedures, using water, soap or ash; facemask use; and social distancing.
- In the province of Zambézia, with the support of AICS – Italy, 1,129 awareness-raising sessions were held in communities to adopt COVID-19 prevention practices, reaching 4,059 people, including 1,398 girls and 1,437 boys.
- In the districts of Milange, Derre and Morrumbala, Save the Children conducted, with SC-Italy funds, 739 home-based sessions to raise awareness on how to prevent and treat COVID-19, reaching 1,550 people (408 girls; 345 boys)
- In Cabo Delgado, with support from ECHO-HIP, the Save the Children team distributed 200 pamphlets with information on the prevention of COVID-19 in 25 schools in the districts of Pemba (6), Mecúfi (4), Metuge (10), and Chiure (10).

### WASH

- The Ungumi and Kudziua projects in Zambézia held 101 tip-tap assembly demonstrations and 101 handwashing demonstrations at the community level. Also, 37 kits to support the construction of tip-taps in Milange were distributed, and 18 families built their tip-taps in Derre

### COVID-19 FUNDRAISING

| Secured  | \$ 1,493,000  |
|--|---|
| <b>COVID-19 Specific Awards:</b>                     | OFDA (through COSACA, CARE) COVID-19 Response in Manica: <b>\$350,000</b> |
|  | Bank of America: <b>\$127,000</b>   |
| <b>COVID programming within multi-themed awards:</b> | OFDA Multi Sector (through COSACA, CARE) (Sofala, Manica, Cabo Delgado)   |
|  | Child Sponsorship (Nampula and nationwide)                                |
|  | ECHO (Cabo Delgado)   |
|  | SIDA (Cabo Delgado)   |
|  | UNICEF (Sofala, Manica, Cabo Delgado)                                     |
|  | Irish Aid (Cabo Delgado)  |
|  | GAIN (Sofala)   |
| DEC II (Sofala, Manica)                              |   |
| SC Italy supporters (Gaza)                           |   |



*A rapid Risk Communication and Community Engagement (RCCE) assessments session in Mavonde, Manica, to gauge levels of understanding and rumours around COVID-19*